

**THE BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE 47th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

held at the Clubhouse, Weston-Super-Mare Golf Club, on Monday, 10th August, 1964, at 2-30 p.m.

The Chairman opened the Meeting at which 55 members were present, and asked that all should give their undivided attention, so that proceedings could go forward without interruptions.

Mr. C. Bretherton then took the Chair for the Meeting.

He first spoke with feeling of those who had died during the year, Lord Brabazon, Mr. F. Chambers, Mr. L. Lowcock and Mr. J. Gillan.

He said he would like to bring to the notice of the Meeting some of the facts concerning Lord Brabazon. He had been a former President of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association, and was instrumental in building up the Benevolent Fund from a nominal amount to a four figure sum. A man of many interests, especially golf. At the time of his death he was President of the Professional Golfers' Association, and the Sports Turf Research Institution, and was a past Captain of the Royal and Ancient, and past President of the English Golf Union.

Mr. Bretherton then asked the members to stand for a few moments and pay a silent tribute.

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, confirmed and signed on the proposal of Mr. Lord, seconded by Mr. Handy.

**Annual Report**

This was read by the Hon. Secretary and its adoption was proposed by Mr. Davies and seconded by Mr. Morton.

**Financial Statement**

The Hon. Treasurer reported a satisfactory state of affairs, but mentioned that he had been obliged to transfer from the Deposit Account of the Benevolent Fund to meet requirements. The adoption of the accounts as presented was proposed by Mr. Lord, seconded by Mr. Kingston and carried.

**Executive Committee Report**

The Tournament Committee had been elected to consist of Messrs. Geddes, Sheppard, Lord, Benbow and G. Herrington, 3 to form a quorum.

As there had been no nomination from the North East Section for Vice-Chairman, the Committee, of the opinion that this important position should be occupied, had nominated Mr. J. Simpson, who had agreed to accept the office.

The 1965 Tournament was due to be played in the North East Section, and the Whitley Bay Golf Club had offered the

courtesy of their course for 9th, 10th and 11th August, 1965.

**Election of Officers**

*President:*

It was proposed by Mr. Davies and seconded by Mr. Sumner that Mr. Carl Bretherton be re-elected President of the Association. Carried unanimously. Mr. Bretherton thanked the members for their generous support of the proposition, and said he would be very pleased to continue in office.

*Vice-Presidents:*

It was proposed by Mr. Pugh and seconded by Mr. Morton that the Vice-Presidents as listed in the Journal be re-elected. Carried.

*Chairman:*

It was proposed by Mr. Davies and seconded by Mr. Dixon that the Vice-Chairman, Mr. H. Sheppard should be elected Chairman. Carried unanimously. Before vacating the Chair Mr. Geddes thanked the Officers and members for the support they had given him during his year of office. Mr. Sheppard took the Chair with remarks of appreciation for his election, and hoped he would be a worthy successor to Mr. Geddes. He then presented a Tankard to Mr. Geddes as a small token of appreciation for his efforts during the past year. Mr. Geddes thanked members, and said the gift would always remind him of a very happy year as their Chairman.

*Vice-Chairman:*

It was proposed by Mr. Lord and seconded by Mr. Dixon that Mr. J. Simpson be elected Vice-Chairman. Carried unanimously. Mr. Simpson expressed his thanks for the honour and trusted he would be a worthy successor to Mr. Sheppard when the time came.

*Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:*

It was proposed by Mr. Geddes and seconded by Mr. Davies that Mr. C. H. Dix be re-elected Secretary and Treasurer. Carried. Mr. Dix thanked the members for their confidence, and said he would be pleased to continue in office.

*Executive Committee:*

It was proposed by Mr. Woodhead and seconded by Mr. Glass that the Executive Committee should be elected as nominated by Sections. Carried.

*Hon. Auditors:*

It was proposed by Mr. Kingston and seconded by Mr. Lord that Messrs. Smallfield Rawlins & Co. should be re-elected as auditors. Carried.

*Hon. Solicitor:*

It was proposed by Mr. Crabtree and seconded by Mr. Walsh that Mr. R. A. Beck be re-appointed solicitor for the ensuing year. Carried.

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### Proposition from the Southern Section

"That the present system of electing a Chairman be abolished, and the best man for the job be elected irrespective of the Section to which he belongs."

Several members, including Messrs. Herrington, Drewitt and Dixon spoke strongly against this proposition, emphasising that the honour of being elected Chairman was, and should be, for services rendered to the Association and its members. Mr. Pord voiced the opinion of the Executive Committee who were not in favour of any change from the present system. After further discussion a vote was taken, and the proposition was defeated by 49 to 2.

### The British Golf Greenkeeper Journal

Mr. F. W. Hawtree regretted there had been a loss of approximately £33 during the year. Production costs had risen by £80 and advertising revenue had dropped by £120, but he assured members the financial position of the Journal was quite sound. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the meeting to the Hon. Editor for his continued efforts.

### Apprenticeship Scheme

The Joint Council for Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship had held two meetings, and a Sub-Committee had been formed to handle enquiries as they arose. 6,500 copies of the Scheme had been forwarded to Youth Employment Officers throughout England, Scotland and Wales, and an Employers' Guide was available explaining the operation of the scheme. Toward the costs of developing the scheme the English Golf Union had contributed 100 guineas, the Scottish Golf Union 75 guineas, the Welsh Golf Union 25 guineas, the Scottish Golf Greenkeepers' Association 25 guineas and the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association 50 guineas. To date about 9 registrations had been made through the Council.

### F. G. Hawtree Memorial Fund

The Hon. Secretary reported that for the current year one greenkeeper would be going to Bingley in October, and that the Sports Turf Research Institute had reserved two places for the Fund in the Spring of 1965, and he hoped to receive enquiries at an early date for these placings.

### Any other business

Mr. J. Glass asked if permission could be obtained from the Royal and Ancient for members to attend the Open Championship on production of their passes. The Hon. Secretary said he would make the necessary enquiries.

The meeting closed with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair by Mr. F. W. Hawtree.



Mr. Editor,

Perhaps this letter will start the ink flowing and we shall learn what our members think :

"The cat amongst the Pigeons"

Is it not time something was done about practice before a tournament or county meeting not including club competitions.

Golfers, the most selfish, inconsiderate, dissatisfied and persistent moaners one could ever meet. They expect to practice up to dark the day before, hacking their way round tees and fairways, long studded shoes tearing at the surface of the green, and still expect to start playing at 8-0 a.m. the following day with everything perfect, including new holes cut. With staff shortages and shorter working weeks in industry, surely ground staffs should have a fair crack of the whip and not have to start at the crack of dawn in these days of enlightenment, no wonder we can't keep staff. I suggest the course is closed to competitors at least 24 hours before the start of the tournament but leaving the course open for club members who give up the right to play during these tournaments.

This would give the ground staff 24 hours unimpeded effort to prepare the course.

It is in my opinion, time that we in this association, being affiliated to the Golf Unions, made strong recommendations to these unions on this point.

Have I stirred a hornet's nest, I hope so.

H. Hughes,  
Cuddington Golf Club.